**Draft Minutes of Oxford and District Labour Party All Member Meeting**

**7.30 p.m. on 13 July 2018, St Clements Family Centre**

1. **Attendance and apologies**

**Present:** Lubna Arshad, Jana Bek, Nadine Bely-Summers, Ann Black, David Blackman, Chris Bond, Susan Brown, David Clensey, Rey Conquer, Steve Curran, Jane Darke (chair), Erica Davis, Anneliese Dodds, Alex Donnelly, Tony Eaude, Ibrahim El-hendi, Mohamed Fadlalla, James Grover, Tom Hayes, Joseph Hollies, Alex Hollingsworth, Roger Howe, Mark Hull, A James, Rabyah Khan, Paul Leach, Felicity Leary (minutes), Peter Ledwith, Sue Ledwith, Rob Lemkin. Anne Lyons, Bill Mackeith, Chris MacMackin, Joe McManus, Michael March, Stephen Marks, Ruben Moni, Alisa Naumann, Peter Nowland, James O’Donoghue, Simon Ottino, Liz Peretz, Caroline Pinder, Maggie Politch, Edward Pope, Rosemary Preston, Caroline Raine, Linda Smith, John Tanner, Sue Tanner, Geoff Taylor, Sam Willson, Pete Willsman, Barry Wooding

**Apologies:**  Sobia Afridi, Avril Alexander, Farida Anwar, Jamila Azad, Esmail Babaahmady, Nekisa Babaahmady, Marie-Claire Berthelson, Pete Cann, Marieke Clarke, Tiago Corais, Linda Forrest, Andy Forse, Julia Goodwin, Dorian Hancock, Bev Humberstone, Dan Iley-Williamson, Gordon Kennedy, Pat Kennedy, Ivan Klimes, Sarah Lasenby, Peter Leary, Nikki Marriott, Caroline Morrell, Pol O Ceallaigh, Lesley Page, Chris Robins, Jane Stockton

1. Agreement of agenda and timings.
2. Minutes of the all member meeting on 14 June 2018. These were agreed as a correct record.
3. Matters arising.

(a) **7 Electoral reform**. The motion has been posted on the policy forum website at https://policyforum.labour.org.uk/commissions/home-affairs/electoral-reform

(b) **11.1 Anti-semitism**. The motion has been sent to the general secretary for the attention of the NEC.

(c) **11.1(b) Marc Wadsworth**. The motion was sent to the general secretary for the attention of the NEC. The general secretary Jennie Formby has responded as below

“Please note that individual disciplinary cases that are being/have been dealt with through the NEC Disputes Processes are confidential. Motions on individual cases are therefore not competent business for discussion at CLPs and will not be discussed by the NEC or any associated bodies.”

(d) **11.2 Gaza.** The motion has been posted on the policy forum website at https://policyforum.labour.org.uk/commissions/international/gaza-motion

(e) **11.3 Israeli army’s unlawful killing and maiming of Palestinian protesters**. The motion has been posted on the policy forum website at

<https://policyforum.labour.org.uk/commissions/international/unlawful-killing-part-1-of-2>

<https://policyforum.labour.org.uk/commissions/international/unlawful-killing-part-2-of-2>

and Anneliese writes: “I will write to the Foreign Secretary as per the calls on the government, and to Emily Thornberry calling for her to adopt the first two action points as per the motion.”

1. Urgent business, including any other business
2. Lubna urged comrades to help campaign for Simon Ottino, Labour candidate in Headington by-election.
3. Emergency resolution, on Ramallah twinning. Rabyah Khan explained the motion was urgent because it relates to a full council meeting on 23 July. The meeting voted to take the emergency motion.
4. **The Living Wage** – discussion led by trade union liaison officers Mark Ladbrooke and Peter Nowland on what all of us can do to promote the living wage

Peter Nowland - terms and conditions of low paid workers in caring and hospitality jobs. Those taking sick leave, are threatened with dismissal. His wife has worked in hotel for many years, and was dismissed with no notice. People struggle to pay bills and have the heating on, work double shifts, have to rely on food banks. High fees paid in residential homes do not deliver high quality care.

Mark Ladbrooke - passing motions at meetings not in itself bringing about any action or change. Mark was convenor at JR Hospital and involved in campaigning to pay staff the Oxford living wage (currently £9.69 per hour). Since becoming a councillor, the council has adopted policy of being a champion of the Oxford living wage. Wide ranging investigation by scrutiny committee led to report which contains several case studies on different work places. Social services are falling to bits. When you mistreat workers, the impact is felt by whole families and communities. People are working longer and longer hours in more and more jobs in order to diversify the risks of job insecurity. Council has commitment to keep this work going and also to organise a meeting to pull everyone together to try to drive this work forward.

Joe McManus - health implications. Councillor and GP, was involved in 2007 on living wage campaign when we got the council to be a living wage employer. We live in a city that is very unequal. There is a huge difference in life expectancy in different areas of this city – up to 8 or 9 years. What drives this is predominantly income and inequality. Need to look at benefits but also at people in work to make sure they are also not living in poverty. Housing, access to green spaces and stress of living in poverty has huge impact on health and life expectancy. Evidence shows if you pay decent wages you have much better staff retention and job satisfaction. We can do a lot more to ensure that public bodies pay a decent wage, and so do sub-contractors. We need to hold people to account and make sure organisations are paying a decent wage.

Mo Fadlalla - thanked members for all the support over the last few months. Looked at two major taxi companies, Royal taxis and 001 taxis who lease cars to drivers and at the end of the year, the car belongs to the company. We discovered drivers can instead rent cars from Toyota dealer for around £400 per month and then own the cars themselves at the end of the contract. New issue - would like the City Council to recognise the union and allow the union to come and represent the drivers on issues such as licensing.

Rob Lemkin - while canvassing with Nadine, knocked on someone’s door who worked as a scout for a University of Oxford college, who was not paid Oxford living wage, and was made to use annual leave to attend family funerals. Many others at this same college on same terrible terms and conditions. Only 11 Oxford colleges who are paying the national “living wage,” and possibly none are paying the Oxford living wage. Encouraging people to join trade unions will be very important and also to find out what all the colleges are paying their staff.

Bill McKeith - the struggle for this will be led by women and migrants. Helped get union recognition at Penguin Books and have been a trade unionist for many years. Workers organise in trade unions – this is why we need to engage with getting people to join trade unions. We know there are struggles going on – TGI Fridays, etc. Union organisation at BMW is very important, and have been able to secure a decent deal. There is no good an individual demanding an increase in pay. Need to join a trade union in order to be listened to. Need to make unions accessible. We should think, could we have a regular quarterly item on the agenda of our Labour Party meetings to discuss what we are doing to promote the Oxford Living Wage.

Peter Nowland - apologies for lack of women speakers on this issue, due to several women involved in campaign being away in London today.

Small group discussions of the issues took place. Notes from some groups are included below:

1. Sue Ledwith / Mark Ladbrooke:
2. which local employers paid the Oxford Living Wage - eg the Coop, Oxford Colleges - some good and some not; where good it was often where the students' union and or Labour Club had initiated something. It was suggested these two bodies, and the UCU be asked for further information and possible campaigning. Oxford Brookes? Other employers/sectors we raised questions about included schools, the hospitality sector.

This led to a discussion about

1. encouragement - a possible system of rewards for good employers for example a kite mark of some sort, or an annual invitation for good employers to apply for a kite mark from the city council. Questionmark on this over the time/resources it could take up.

1. And a suggestion of a regular feature in the City Council newsletter on the Living Wage – e.g. asking individuals 'are you being paid the Ox LWage?' 'Do you know anyone who is/is not being paid the OLW?
2. Joe McManners

*General points*

* Women will be most affected by low pay
* Private sector probably worse offenders and employ more than the public sector (so we need to focus on both not just public sector).
* Other drivers of poverty no tto be forgotten.

*Practical solutions*

* Fact finding key, need programme to establish who is or isn’t paying a Living Wage, (?FoI Colleges, ask private companies, charities)
* Students can help find out if a college is paying the LW
* Could charity trustees find out? And then maybe put pressure on.
* Important to empower and support lower paid workers to speak out and campaign, Trade Unions important here to support and train
* Useful to unionise private sector workers and important to find and connect to non-unionised workers, finding new ways to mobilise them (especially those working in an industry without an obvious TU).
* Carers; we should look to lobby and influence County Council, expose non LW agencies, need to find carers willing to speak out, FOI about rates
* Carers/care homes; private run companies/outsourced companies/private equity funded homes encourage low pay business model which needs to be exposed
* In-housing of outsourced public services should be encouraged
* Campaign to publicise OLW vital and show successes, highlight LW employers/non-LW employers. A combination of MP/cllrs and those affected likely to be most successful.

1. Rabyah Khan:

The group suggested:

- with the rise of agency work, getting people who receive services to put pressure on employers, asking them if workers are being paid the Living Wage.

- O&DLP to raise awareness of what it means to unionise, what the benefits to workers are. This could be done through phonebanking, leaflets, union officers, members in workplaces and so on.

- Visiting shops and asking them how much they pay workers which could work in tandem with a City Council accreditation scheme to identify which businesses do pay the Living Wage.

- Petitions.

1. Fundraising collection £130 was collected.
2. Parliamentary Report. Anneliese Dodds MP.

Copies of monthly report are available here at the meeting, and annual report is now up on my website.

Brexit – we finally have the plan released by Theresa May and now the White Paper. And we have Conservatives leaving the government. The plan itself is worrying, there is no customs procedure in there that exists anywhere in the world, and we don’t have a plan for services. On Monday we have a vote on the customs bill, on Tuesday vote on trade bill. Extreme right wing Conservatives have outed themselves, but more reasonable rebels are now backing May. Brexit secretary is much more extreme than Davis and there are other worryingly right wing members of the Cabinet.

NHS – 70th birthday – terrific support from staff and the public. We thought that we might see more detail from the government about the funding for the NHS. Looks as though tax will not be increased, other public services will pick up the tab.

Israel/Palestine – have been discussing with Emily Thornberry and am grateful to party members who have provided me with more information on this.

Universal Credit – Minister misrepresented the report from the National Audit Office on the complete shambles of this new approach to benefits. The report actually recommended the scheme be put on hold and reviewed. The main problem is that you wait too long to receive Universal Credit, and then it is not enough.

Local authorities have had their budgets cut by around a third, something has to fall out. Councils are legally required to provide social care and children’s services, so other services are cut. Debt has been pushed onto the backs of local councils. We need to invest in social care now, to reduce NHS costs later. We need to invest in pay now, to see positive benefits in public services.

Campaigning – need to support Simon Ottino. Very impressed at how far we have come, but am worried that we will have a low turnout on Thursday. Please sign up to deliver leaflets and help out on election day.

Questions and comments (responses in brackets)

Tom Hayes – thank you because I am signed up to updates whenever you speak or ask a question. This is really helpful in terms of feeding back to voters. Are you open to a people’s vote on Brexit?

Sue – Ruskin College management has got rid of Governing Council, and replaced with a series of appointed people called trustees. The college has lost its Labour heart. Can you up date us on the work you have been doing.

*(Anneliese: Ruskin College is incredibly important to Oxford. It has opened up access to education for so many people. There have been wrong decisions taken in a number of areas, and they have had financial pressures, and I think the way to deal with this is think how can we engage with the trade unions and do further education but also stick with higher education too. We are trying to organise a meeting on this at Conference and I have been talking with John Prescott on this too. Want to see higher education opportunities for all.)*

Paul Leach – could you explain to us what our plan is on Brexit and is it moving?

*(Anneliese– always been careful not to shut off an opportunity for people to be involved. This is one of the major failings of this government, that they will not listen to anyone else. However, have been concerned that when people who voted leave hear this call, they think politicians are not listening to us and their position becomes more entrenched. This is something that would need to be thought through and need to think how this will play right across the country. Most concerned about getting beyond the polarisation that we have in this country on this issue. It will be difficult if we have presented to us a vote in the autumn, on a flawed deal or no deal, we would be in a difficult position. Do not think I could hold my nose and vote for Theresa May’s bill.)*

1. Oxford city council report

Susan Brown

Motion that is on agenda on Ramallah will be supported by the Labour Group.

Bullingdon Community Centre – is old and dilapidated and we committed to rebuilding the centre, but unfortunately the work is even more complicated than we initially thought. Do not think the community association have been as good as they could have been.

£250m growth deal – we continue to work on with partners across Oxfordshire.

Oxford Greyhound Stadium – we have long wanted to bring the stadium back into use and continue to keep our commitment to do this, but need to wait for local plan to go through before we can take this forward. We continue to talk to local people about this.

Linda Smith

Homelessness – rough sleeping has been rising across the country since 2010 as direct result of Whitehall policies. We see this on the streets of Oxford. Even government recognise something must be done.

We support beds for rough sleepers and outreach work done by St Mungo’s and we fund day services. Have successfully bid for £500K to support this work next winter. This will fund 64 additional beds over the winter. Hope to have dedicated female hostel.

Tom Hayes

Seen significant drop in our air pollution levels this year, but this still a breach of guidelines, and more needs to be done. There is a huge amount that has been done to improve air quality, buses have been changed to low emission, more retractable charging points etc. Attended summits with other local authorities to discuss air quality and charging for road use. Labour council must protect the poorest and the most vulnerable.

Questions and comments (responses in brackets)

Sue – every councillor has a small budget to spend in their patch. It would be interesting to know how the decisions are made by councillors and what the funds are used for. Could we hear about this at another meeting. *(Linda – decisions are made by individual councillors, and this is circulated to other councillors who can call the decision in if they do not believe this is an appropriate use of funds. Richard Howlett is trialling consulting local members on how these funds should be used. Steve Curran – my £1500 goes to Donnington Doorstep. Should note that County Councillors have £15k to distribute.)*

1. Motions

10.1 **National Policy Forum** – submitted by South West Central branch

This meeting notes that:

• According to the party rule book, the National Policy Forum (NPF) is meant to provide a

“rolling programme of work” from which Conference adopts party policy.

• The NPF brings together representatives of members, unions, socialist societies, and elected

officials to develop detailed policy for implementation once Labour is in government.

• The workings of the NPF are largely opaque to grassroots members, who are offered little

opportunity to become involved and to whom minutes of meetings are not made available.

• In March of this year the NPF began its annual consultation of members by releasing 8

reports asking a series of questions to which members could respond.

• These questions were broad and gave members insufficient background information on the

issues or potential solutions to be able to foster informed discussion.

• In previous years, member responses to the consultation have been ignored when they do

not fit the NPF’s agenda and the reports it submits to Conference contain few, if any,

concrete policies.

• As a result, party manifestos tend to be written by a small group around the leadership and

do not necessarily resemble the work of the NPF

• While Jeremy Corbyn was elected on the promise to open policy formation up to members,

the same dysfunctional process has persisted.

We therefore call on the National Policy Forum to:

• Organise a series of local consultation events throughout the year at which both experts and

party members are invited to discuss policy issues

• Release transcripts and/or video of these events, along with minutes of other NPF meetings,

to be made available online.

• Direct its members to actively engage with submissions made through the NPF website.

This might take the form of, e.g., asking authors for further information, facilitating

cooperation of like-minded authors, and promoting dialogue between conflicting views.

• Inform those who make policy submissions what the NPF choses to do with them (e.g., if

they are to be used or, if not, why so)

• Ensure that annual reports address the full range of submissions which have been received.

• Ensure that the shadow ministerial teams use the NPF process to develop and promote policy.

• Use annual reports to synthesise the policy put forward by members and experts into a form

which could be implemented in government.

• Where conflicting views exist on the Forum, release minority reports which Conference may

also consider.

The motion was proposed by Chris MacMackin and seconded by John Tanner.

The motion was carried unanimously.

10.2 **Gaza** – submitted by Rose Hill, Iffley & Littlemore branch

This meeting condemns the massacre of Palestinian protesters in Gaza and the wounding of thousands by Israeli snipers using live fire. Recently, a volunteer nurse was shot dead as she was attending a Palestinian man who had been shot.

From the UN to countries across the world, the actions of the Israeli army have been denounced.

We also condemn the provocative decision by the US government to carry out its declared aim of opening its embassy in illegally occupied Jerusalem.

The number of people killed during weeks of protest, including children and journalists, has  now exceeded 100. This is more than the numbers killed and wounded in the Sharpeville massacre in 1960, which started South Africa's slide into pariah status.

We support Jeremy Corbyn's statement

a) demanding that Theresa May support the UN's call for an independent international inquiry

b) calling on the British government to stop the sale of arms to Israel that "could be used in violation of international law".

We also welcome the statement by Shadow Foreign Secretary Emily Thornberry who noted that the killings were the "culmination of six weeks of an apparently systemic and deliberate policy of killing and maiming unarmed protestors and bystanders."

We support her call for

a) urgent and concerted international pressure on the Netanyahu government to lift the blockade on Gaza, and

b) an end to Israel's illegal occupation of the Palestinian territories.

**Statement by Jeremy Corbyn :**

"Today's killing of dozens of unarmed protesters and the wounding of many more by Israeli forces in Gaza is an outrage that demands not just international condemnation, but action to hold those responsible to account.

This slaughter follows weeks of killings of Palestinian civilians demonstrating for their right to return, most of whom are refugees or the families of refugees. Coming on the day President Trump moved the US embassy to Jerusalem, it underlines the threat to peace posed by the continuing and intolerable injustices faced by the Palestinian people.

"The response from many western governments to this flagrant illegality, including our own - which bears a particular responsibility for a peaceful and just resolution of the Israel-Palestine conflict - has been wholly inadequate. They should take a lead from Israeli peace and justice campaigners: to demand an end to the multiple abuses of human and political rights Palestinians face on a daily basis, the 11-year siege of Gaza, the continuing 50-year occupation of Palestinian territory and the ongoing expansion of illegal settlements.

"We cannot turn a blind eye to such wanton disregard for international law. That is why Labour is committed to reviewing UK arms sales to Israel while these violations continue.

"The international community must at last put its collective authority and weight behind achieving a lasting settlement that delivers peace, justice and security for both Israelis and Palestinians, who have waited so long to achieve their rights."

**Statement by** **Emily Thornberry, Labour's Shadow Foreign Secretary:**

"We condemn unreservedly the Israeli government for their brutal, lethal and utterly unjustified actions on the Gaza border, and our thoughts are with all those Palestinians in Gaza whose loved ones have been killed or injured as a result.

"These actions are made all the worse because they come not as the result of a disproportionate over-reaction to one day's protests, but as the culmination of six weeks of an apparently systemic and deliberate policy of killing and maiming unarmed protestors and bystanders who pose no threat to the forces at the Gaza border, many of them shot in the back, many of them shot hundreds of metres from the border, and many of them children.

"Throughout that six-week period, the UN's Secretary General has been calling for an independent investigation into these incidents, one that should urgently determine whether international law has been broken, and hold the Netanyahu government to account for their actions. The UK should lead calls for the UN Security Council to order such an investigation today.

"These incidents must also be the catalyst for urgent and concerted international pressure on the Netanyahu government to lift the blockade on Gaza, and end Israel's illegal occupation of the Palestinian territories. No longer can Netanyahu act as a law unto himself, under the protection of the Trump administration, whose decision to move the US embassy to Jerusalem today has further inflamed the situation.

"In the meantime, we urge the Israeli forces serving on the Gaza border to show some long-overdue responsibility to their fellow human beings, and stop this vicious and utterly avoidable slaughter of peaceful protesters demanding the right to return to their homes."

The motion was proposed by Caroline Raine and seconded by James Grover(?).

The motion was passed unanimously.

10.3 **Twinning with Ramallah** Emergency motion – submitted by Summertown & Wolvercote branch

This meeting notes:

• That the Oxford Ramallah Friendship Association (ORFA) has, since 2003, been successfully working to establish cultural, social and friendship links between the city of Ramallah and Oxford

• That this 15 years of friendship work has included organic cultural links between the museums of Oxford and the Palestinian National Museum in Ramallah, exchanges of students and worker delegations, and cultural visits such as the visit of the Dabke troupe from Al-’Amari refugee camp in Ramallah, which participated in the Cowley Road Carnival and the Ashmolean University, amongst others

• That fraternal links have been established between the trade union movement in Oxford, such as NASUWT, Unison Health Branch, and the Unite BMW carworkers and Palestinian unions such as the West Bank Health Workers’ Union and the Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions.

This meeting believes:

• That ORFA represents a successful grassroots, community-led approach to twinning, which should serve as the model for twinning initiatives

• That twinning is a method of testifying to our internationalist values of solidarity and unity.

• That Labour Party policy calls for recognising the State of Palestine and the Oxford City Council Labour Group has an opportunity to show leadership in prefiguring this manifesto commitment

This meeting fully supports the Oxford City Council Labour Group initiative to put forward, and vote for a motion at the next available Full Council meeting on 23rd July to initiate the process of upgrading the friendship with Ramallah to a full twinning-link, equivalent to other twins such as Leiden, Grenoble, and Perm.

The motion was proposed by Rabyah Khan and seconded.

Maggie Black proposed amending the motion by adding the following words, and this was accepted by the mover.

, with a particular expression of concern for the refugees living in and around Ramallah, given the new pressures being exerted on their social welfare and educational services to US cuts to the UNWRA budget.

The amended motion was carried by a large majority, with three against and four abstentions.

1. Executive committee report. The minutes of the meeting on 28 June 2018 were accepted.

12. Future meetings. Noted as **Thursday 6 September** (Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, conference motions and speaker from Oxford co-housing), **Friday 12 October 2018** (Rose Hill community centre, conference reports and member Jamie Tarlton on Palestine), **Friday 9 November 2018** (Dr Dougal Hargreaves on child poverty and health, venue to be arranged), **Thursday 13 / Friday 14 December 2018** (short meeting with refreshments, venue to be arranged).